

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 05301 301006Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: SHUM, PL
SUBJ: CARDINAL WOJTYLA'S CORPUS CHRISTI SERMON

REF: A. STATE 176807, B. SUMMERS-BARTECKI MEMCON JULY 15,
C. 76 WARSAW A-360

1. THE POLISH TEXT OF CARDINAL WOJTYLA'S CORPUS CHRISTI
SERMON WAS FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT, EUR/EE, WITH REF B.
AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE CARDINAL'S COMMENTS ON FREEDOM
OF THE PRESS FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TRANSLATION: THE TRUTH MUST BE SPOKEN AND
RESPECTED, PARTICULARLY WHEN YOUTH IS INVOLVED. TRUTH CANNOT
BE DISTORTED TO CONFORM TO ANY PRECONCEIVED DOGMAS. IT
CANNOT* OUR POLISH PRESS MUST TAKE THIS INTO SPECIAL ACCOUNT. IT
CANNOT SERVE SIMPLY AS A TOOL FOR MANIPULATING PUBLIC
OPINION, AS IT IS IN MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. MAN IS A
RATIONAL BEING; HE SEEKS THE TRUTH. THE POLES ALREADY
HAVE A 1000-YEAR EXPERIENCE OF SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH.
THEY ARE CONSEQUENTLY ENDOWED WITH A SPECIAL MATURITY, WHICH IS EVEN
FOUND IN THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET REACHED MATURITY AND IN
THOSE WHO HAVE ONLY JUST REACHED IT. IF THESE PEOPLE READ
AN ACCOUNT IN THE PAPERS WHICH THEY KNOW TO BE AT ODDS WITH
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 05301 301006Z

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, THEY ARE EMBITTERED BY THE
HYPOCRISY AND THE FALSIFICATIONS MADE ABOUT THEM.
NEXT, THEY FEAR THAT THE TRUTH ABOUT ALL OF US
WILL BE FALSIFIED - ABOUT POLES, OUR HISTORY, AND OUR WORLD
VIEW.

IF SOMEONE BASED HIS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT POLAND AND

POLISH LIFE IN OUR TIME SOLELY ON WHAT APPEARED IN OUR DAILY PRESS, THAT PRESS WHICH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED SOMEWHERE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF CONTROL, HE WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED TO SEE OUR CORPUS CHRISTI DAY PROCESSION HERE; HE WOULD ASK, WHERE DOES ALL THIS FIT INTO WHAT APPEARS IN THE PRESS?

THE PRESS CANNOT FALSIFY ITS DEPICTION OF SOCIETY IF SOCIETY IS TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. IT CANNOT* IT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY, TO THE PEOPLE, TO MANKIND AS A WHOLE, AND NOT ONLY TO ONE SINGLE INSTITUTION OR ADMINISTRATIVE BODY. WE STRONGLY APPEAL TO THE POLISH PRESS TO SERVE THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND OF THE NATION, ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE WHO CARES ABOUT HIS FATHERLAND; WE APPEAL TO THE PRESS NOT SIMPLY TO PRESENT ONE-SIDED INFORMATION, OPINIONS, AND VIEWS. IT IS PARTICULARLY SHAMEFUL WHEN A ONE-SIDED VIEW OR OPINION AFFECTS SOMEONE WHO CANNOT DEFEND HIMSELF. THIS STYLE OF WRITING, WHICH IS NOT UNKNOWN TO US, COULD BE ALLOWED IF THERE WERE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN POLAND, IF PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW WERE ALLOWED TO SPEAK OUT. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS ONLY A UNIFORM, ONE-SIDED PRESS. THEREFORE, JOURNALISTS MUST BE ALL THE MORE CAREFUL NOT TO ABUSE ANYONE IN THEIR PUBLICATIONS, NOT TO DOCTOR THEIR PRESENTATION OF THE OPINIONS OF A GIVEN PERSON OR PEOPLE WHO CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES. THAT IS THE SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY AND THE POLISH TRADITION OF TOLERANCE. NO ONE LOSES BY THIS.

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 05301 301006Z

CERTAINLY OUR AUTHORITIES WON'T LOSE, BECAUSE AUTHORITY IS STRENGTHENED BY TRUTH. TRUTH IS STRONG* IN OUR CULTURE AND NATIONAL TRADITION, AT LEAST, THIS IS THE WAY TO TREAT SUCH ISSUES. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: THE CARDINAL'S COMMENTS ARE IN LINE WITH OTHER CHURCH PRONOUNCEMENTS WHICH ADVOCATE GREATER PRESS FREEDOM, NOTABLY THE MESSAGE OF THE POLISH BISHOPS ON THE ANNUAL DAY OF THE MEDIA OF MASS COMMUNICATION LAST SEPTEMBER (REF C). WOJTYLA'S STRONG WORDS ABOUT PRESS ATTACKS AGAINST PEOPLE WHO CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES MAY HAVE BEEN INSPIRED IN PART BY THE POLISH MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS AT ITS HEIGHT A FEW WEEKS BEFORE HIS SERMON. END COMMENT.

4. GOOD FOR SENATOR RIEGLE.
DAVIES

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